

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9396

INFO AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 5638

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MT

SUBJECT: NEW COUNSELOR OF SMOM EMBASSY AT VALLETTA

REF: VALLETTA 1174

1. RETIRED ITALIAN REAR ADMIRAL GIUSEPPE MARTUCCI, RECENTLY APPOINTED COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY OF THE SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA, WILL RESIDE PERMANENTLY AT VALLETTA WHERE HE WILL BE CHARGE D' AFFAIRES DURING FREQUENT ABSENCES OF AMBASSADOR MARRAJENI. MARTUCCI WAS BORN IN NAPLES OCTOBER 14, 1917, AND IS MARRIED WITH ONE CHILD. A GRADUATE OF ITALIAN NAVAL ACADEMY, HE HAS HAD SHIPBOARD COMMAND AND A NUMBER OF DIPLOMATIC EXPERIENCES AS A NAVAL ATTACHE. HE IS REPORTEDLY A PLEASANT, INTELLIGENT PERSON, VERY POPULAR WITH U. S. NAVAL OFFICERS IN THE PAST, AND IS CONSIDERED FRIENDLY TO THE U. S. HE SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH AND FRENCH.

2. ACCORDING TO COLLEAGUES IN THE ORDER OF MALTA, MARTUCCI, WHEN ASKING TO SERVE THE ORDER, REQUESTED AN ASSIGNMENT IN VALLETTA WHERE HIS LIMITED ECONOMIC MEANS WOULD NOT BE OVERLY TAXED BY REPRESENTATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.

3. SMOM INFORMS US THAT AMBASSADOR MARRAJENI HAS BECOME SOMETHING OF AN ADVISER TO PM MINTOFF, WHO IS IN THE HABIT OF CALLING MARRAJENI AT ALL HOURS TO DISCUSS IMPORTANT MATTERS. MANY PERSONS SEEKING APPOINTMENTS WITH MINTOFF NOW ASK MARRAJENI'S
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ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING THEM, AS HE HAS REPUTATION AS A DIRECT
PIPELINE TO THE PRIME MINISTER' S OFFICE. OUR CONTACTS DID NOT
SPECULATE AS TO WHETHER SOME OF MARRAJENT' S INFLUENCE WITH
MINTOFF MIGHT RUB OFF ON MARTUCCI. VOLPE

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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